

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Akihiro HIKICHI et al.)
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned) Group Art Unit:
Filed: July 11, 2001) Examiner:

For: NON-ASBESTOS FRICTION MATERIAL

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A non-asbestos friction material comprising:
a fibrous reinforcement;
a friction modifier;
a binder; and
a soluble amorphous substance mixed as friction material components, wherein the soluble amorphous substance is a composition composed of SiO_2 as a principal component, 18 to 40 wt% of at least one kind of CaO and MgO, less than 10 wt% of at least one kind of Al_2O_3 and ZrO_2 , and less than 2 wt% of at least one kind of Na_2O , K_2O , FeO, Fe_2O_3 and BaO.

REMARKS

The amendment is fully supported by the Specification and will not require an additional search, and does not raise new issues. Support for the amendment is found, for example, at page 5, lines 15-18, of the specification. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that this Preliminary Amendment be entered and the requested changes made. No new matter is added by this amendment.

An amended version of claim 1 is attached for the Examiner's convenience pursuant to new rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(1)(ii).


The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this preliminary amendment, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:


Ernest F. Chapman
Reg. No. 25,961

Dated: July 11, 2001
EFC/FPD/crw
Enclosures

APPENDIX TO THE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A non-asbestos friction material comprising:
- a fibrous reinforcement;
 - a friction modifier;
 - a binder; and
 - a soluble amorphous substance mixed as friction material components, wherein the soluble amorphous substance is a composition composed of SiO_2 as a principal component, 18 to 40 wt% of at least one kind of CaO and MgO , less than 10 wt% of at least one kind of Al_2O_3 and ZrO_2 , and less than 2 wt% of at least one kind of Na_2O , K_2O , FeO , [and] Fe_2O_3 and BaO.